AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-14. (canceled)

15. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented information retrieval method, comprising the steps of:

accepting a user input for selecting at least one data source;

receiving a plurality of data items from said data source;

creating an unfiltered data table that includes said plurality of data items;

displaying said unfiltered data table;

generating a filter tree table that includes selectable, data groupings associated with said plurality of data items;

accepting a user input for selecting or de-selecting at least one data grouping;

generating a filtering query, based on the selected data groupings, that includes at least one query operator;

running said filtering query against said unfiltered data table;

receiving a plurality of filtered data items from said unfiltered data table in response to said filtering query;

creating a filtered data table that includes said plurality of filtered data items;

displaying said filtered data table;

generating a summary query based on the selected data groupings;

running said summary query against said filtered data table;

generating a summary result including a data item count for each selected data grouping;

updating said filter tree table with said summary results;

displaying said filter tree table including said selected data groupings and associated data item counts; and

branching back to said accepting a user input for selecting or de-selecting a data grouping.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said data source comprises a database.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said data source comprises one or more data tables.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein a first filter level of said filter tree table corresponds to a column in said data source.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein data item counts are automatically updated upon a data grouping selection or de-selection by said user.

20. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein all data groupings are automatically recalculated upon a selection or de-selection by said user.

21. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said generating a filtering query step includes creating said filtering query based on selected data groupings.

22. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said filtering query is a SQL query.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said user input includes clicking on a selection icon corresponding to a predetermined data grouping.

24. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said summary result further includes a data item result for said each selected data grouping.

25. (Previously presented) An information retrieval process, comprising the steps of:

generating a filtering query based upon one or more user-selected data groupings in a filter tree table, said data groupings being associated with a plurality of data items in an unfiltered data table;

running said filtering query against said unfiltered data table;

receiving one or more filtered data items from said unfiltered data table in response to said filtering query;

creating a filtered data table including said one or more filtered data items;

displaying said one or more filtered data items in said filtered data table;

generating a summary query from the user-selected data groupings in said filter tree table;

running said summary query against said filtered data table to produce a summary result including a data item count for each user-selected data grouping;

providing said summary result to said filter tree table;

displaying said filter tree table; and

branching back to said step of generating a filtering query.

26. (Previously presented) The information retrieval process of claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

selecting one or more data sets automatically or in response to a user input;

receiving said plurality of data items from said one or more data sets;

creating said unfiltered data table based on said plurality of data items from said one or more data sets;

displaying said unfiltered data table; and

updating said filter tree table with selectable data groupings associated with said plurality of data items.

27. (Original) The information retrieval process of claim 25, further including a preliminary step of selecting a data set.

28. (Previously presented) The information retrieval process of claim 27, wherein said data set comprises a database.

29. (Previously presented) The information retrieval process of claim 27, wherein said data set comprises one or more data tables.

30. (Previously presented) The information retrieval process of claim 27, wherein a first filter level of said filter tree table corresponds to a column in said data set.

31. (Original) The information retrieval process of claim 25, wherein data item counts are automatically updated upon a data grouping selection or de-selection by said user.

32. (Original) The information retrieval process of claim 25, wherein all data groupings are automatically recalculated upon a selection or de-selection by said user.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Original) The information retrieval process of claim 25, wherein said filtering query is a SQL query.

35. (Previously presented) The information retrieval process of claim 25, wherein said user-selected data groupings are input by clicking on a selection icon corresponding to a predetermined data grouping.

36. (Original) The information retrieval process of claim 25, wherein said summary result further includes a data item result for said each selected data grouping.

37-48. (canceled)